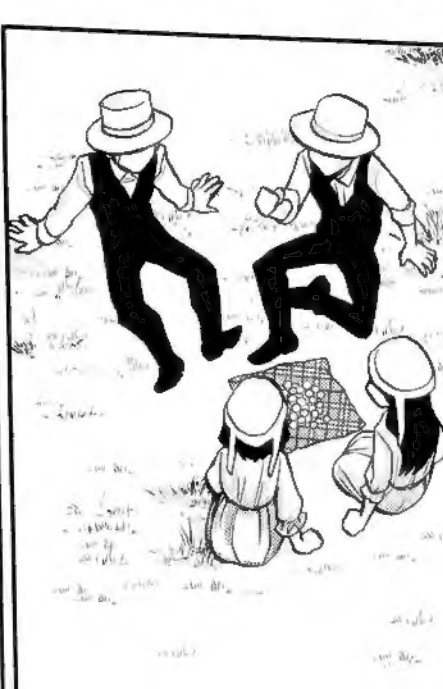



ONE ASPECT
OF MAINTAINING
OUR LIFESTYLE
INVOLVES
UNIFORMITY
IN DOCTRINE,
CLOTHING, AND
HOUSING AND
OTHER DAILY
MATTERS.

BUT THAT'S
DESIGNED TO
REDUCE THE STRESS
OF DECISION MAKING AND
EMOTIONALLY SUPPORT
OUR MEMBERS, WHO
SUFFER FROM A
DEVELOPED SENSE OF
HELPLESSNESS
AND LACK OF
INDEPENDENCE.



IN ADDITION,
EVERYONE
WEARS THE SAME
OUTFITS WITHIN THE
SETTLEMENT, SO
WE CAN MORE
READILY RECOGNIZE
ONE ANOTHER AS
FAMILY WHO CAN
UNDERSTAND
EACH OTHER'S
EMOTIONAL
PAIN.



HINAMIZAWA
IS THE SAFE
HAVEN WE HAVE
FINALLY REACHED.

WE HAVE
NO INTENTION
OF MAKING
ANYONE ELSE
CONFORM TO
OUR WAYS.

WE OF
POLARIS
SIMPLY SEEK
TO LEAD
OUR OWN
LIFESTYLE
WITH OUR
OWN RULES.

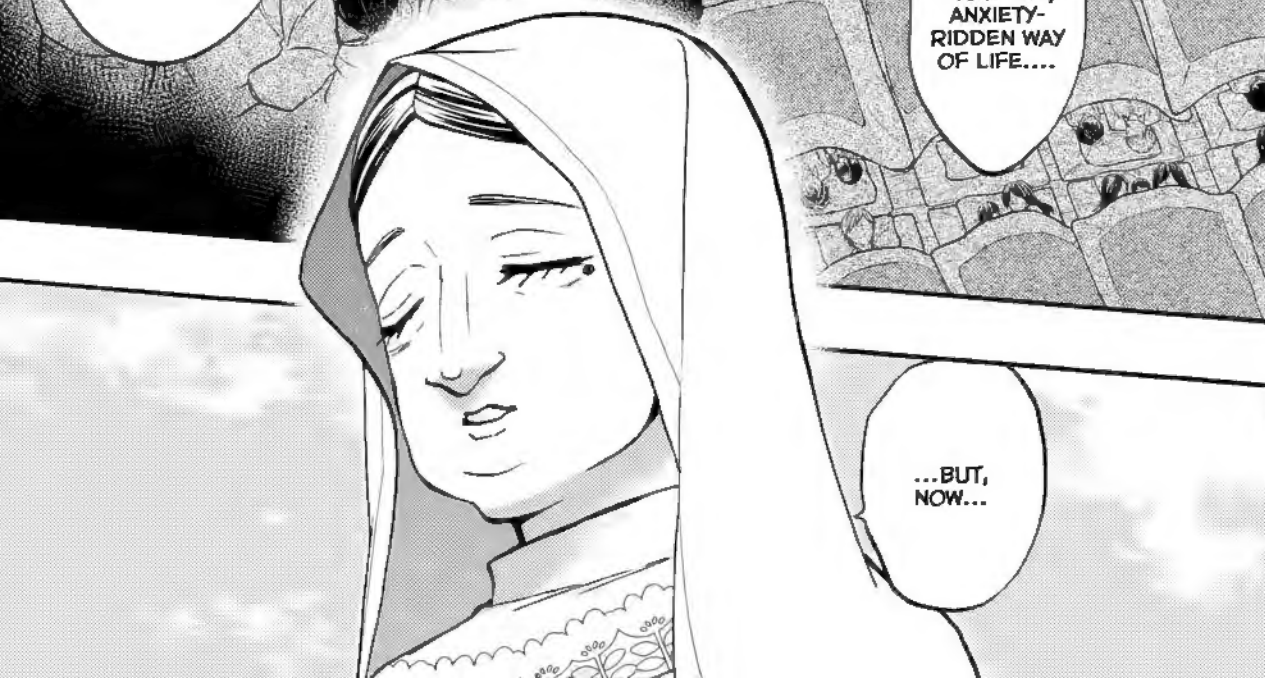


WE
RECEIVED
STRANGE
LOOKS NO
MATTER WHERE
WE WENT...

IT WAS A
CYCLE OF
ENCOUNTERING
TROUBLE WITH
THE NEIGHBORS
FOLLOWED BY
RELOCATION...

BEFORE THIS,
OUR PEOPLE WERE
SCATTERED ALL
ACROSS THE
COUNTRY, AND IT
WASN'T UNCOMMON
TO HAVE DOZENS
OF US LIVING
TOGETHER UNDER
THE SAME
ROOF.

IT IS A
CRAMPED,
ANXIETY-
RIDDEN WAY
OF LIFE....



...BUT,
NOW...

WE
ARE ABLE
TO ENJOY A
QUIET LIFE
AMONGST
THE MAJESTIC
NATURE HERE.

THANKS
TO YOU,
WE'VE BEEN
GRACEFULLY
ACCEPTED IN
HINAMIZAWA.

WE
DO NOT
WISH FOR
TROUBLE.

SO I DO
NOT BELIEVE FOR
A SECOND THAT
ANYONE IN OUR
BELOVED FAMILY
WOULD EVER
STOOP TO
HARASSING
THE VILLAGE.



YOU DO NOT
THINK YOUR
PEOPLE WOULD
RETALIATE...
NO MATTER
HOW MUCH
HARASSMENT
THEY RECEIVE?

POLARIS
HAS FORMALLY
COMPLAINED
TO THE TOWN
COUNCIL ABOUT
HARASSMENT
FROM THE
VILLAGERS.



...

NO...



...



...AT THE
MOMENT,
NO...

BUT
THERE
USED TO BE...
YES, THERE
USED TO BE...

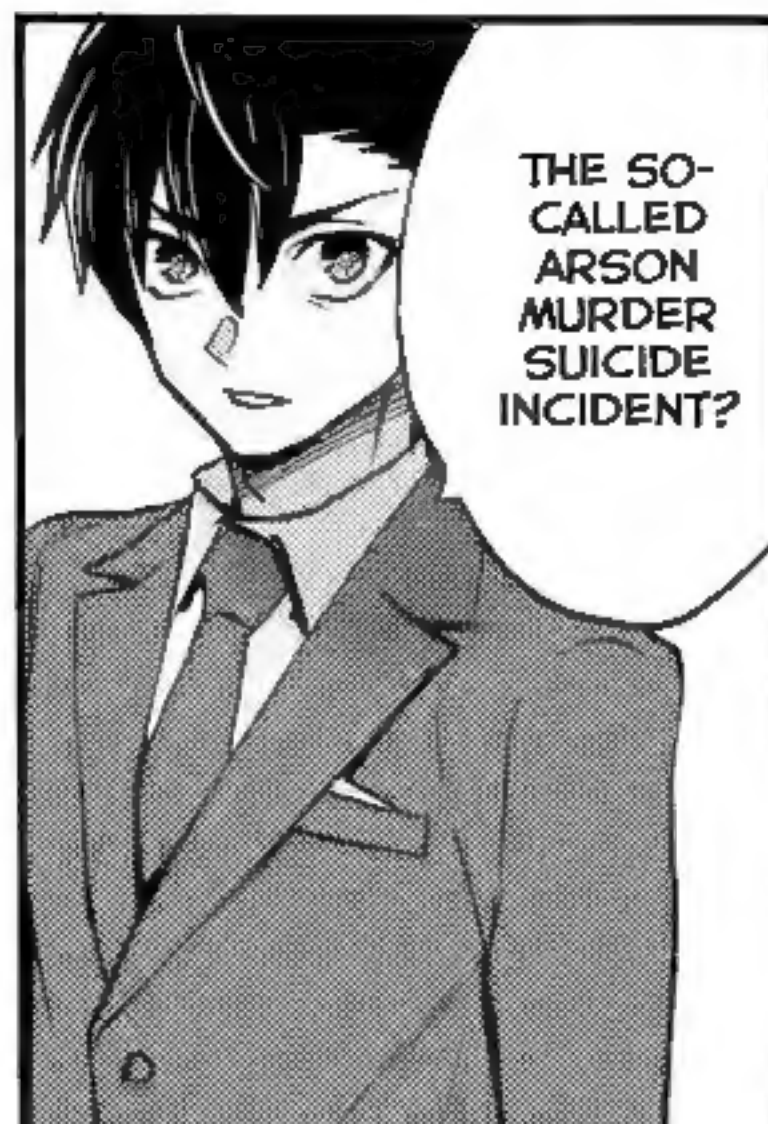




IF
THEY'RE
AWARE OF
THE TROUBLE
POLARIS HAS
BEEN INVOLVED
WITH IN THE
PAST...

IT IS NOT
UNREASONABLE
FOR THE
PEOPLE OF
HINAMIZAWA
TO BE
SUSPICIOUS
OF US.

ISSHIKI-
SAN?



THE SO-
CALLED
ARSON
MURDER
SUICIDE
INCIDENT?



I'M
SURE YOU
KNOW OF
IT...

IN THE
EARLIEST
DAYS OF OUR
FOUNDING,
A YOUNG
MAN AND A WOMAN
OF THE RING OF
STARS WENT OUT
OF CONTROL,
GETTING INVOLVED
IN A MURDER
THAT MADE
NATIONAL
NEWS.

AND...

THE RING OF STARS
HAD EMBRACED
OUR NEGATIVE
IMAGE, STRIVING
TO PROTECT
POLARIS.

AT THE
TIME, A NUMBER
OF OUR MEMBERS
EVEN OUTSIDE
THE RING OF STARS
HAD A TENDENCY TO
TURN AGGRESSIVE
TOWARD PEOPLE
AROUND THEM.

THERE WERE
SOME ISSUES
THAT WEREN'T
QUITE NEWS-
WORTHY.



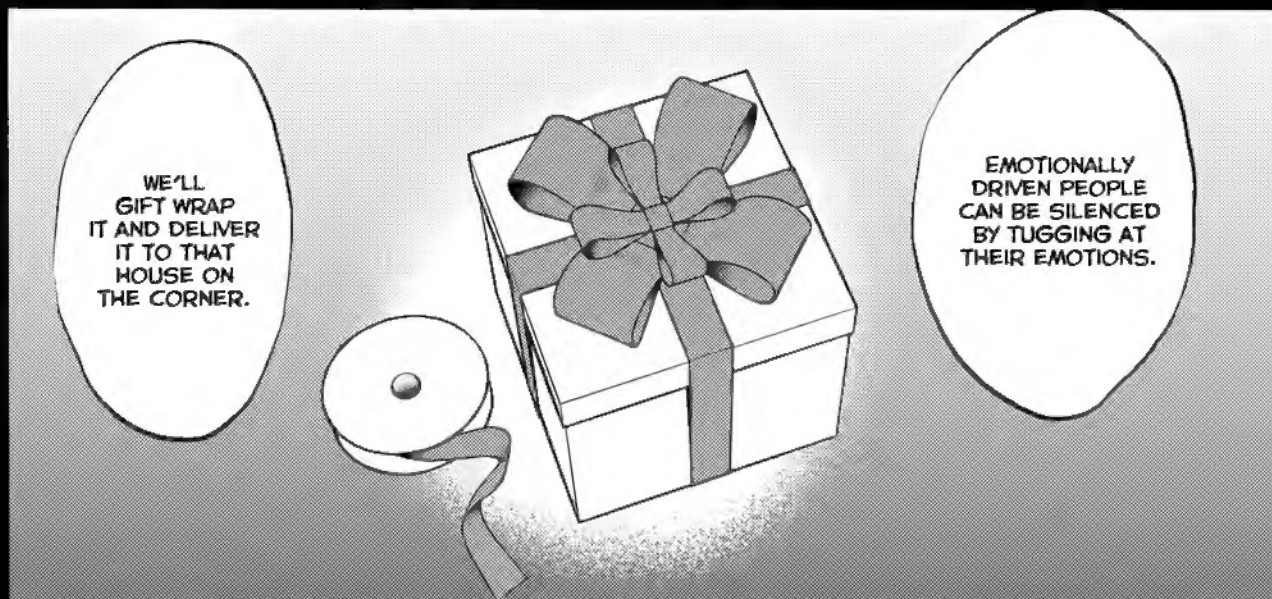
THOSE
STORIES
YOU SEE
SCATTERED
ABOUT ONLINE
ARE BY NO MEANS
SOMETHING
MADE UP BY
ANTI-POLARIS
TROLLS.

PUSHING
PEOPLE
TO BELIEVE
THAT GETTING
INVOLVED WITH
POLARIS
WOULD ONLY
LEAD TO
TROUBLE...

HARASSING
HOUSEHOLDS
HOSTILE TO
POLARIS, BY
SENDING
THEM DEAD
ANIMALS AND
SUCH...



IN FACT,
I MYSELF
HAD A
HAND IN
THOSE
INCI-
DENTS...



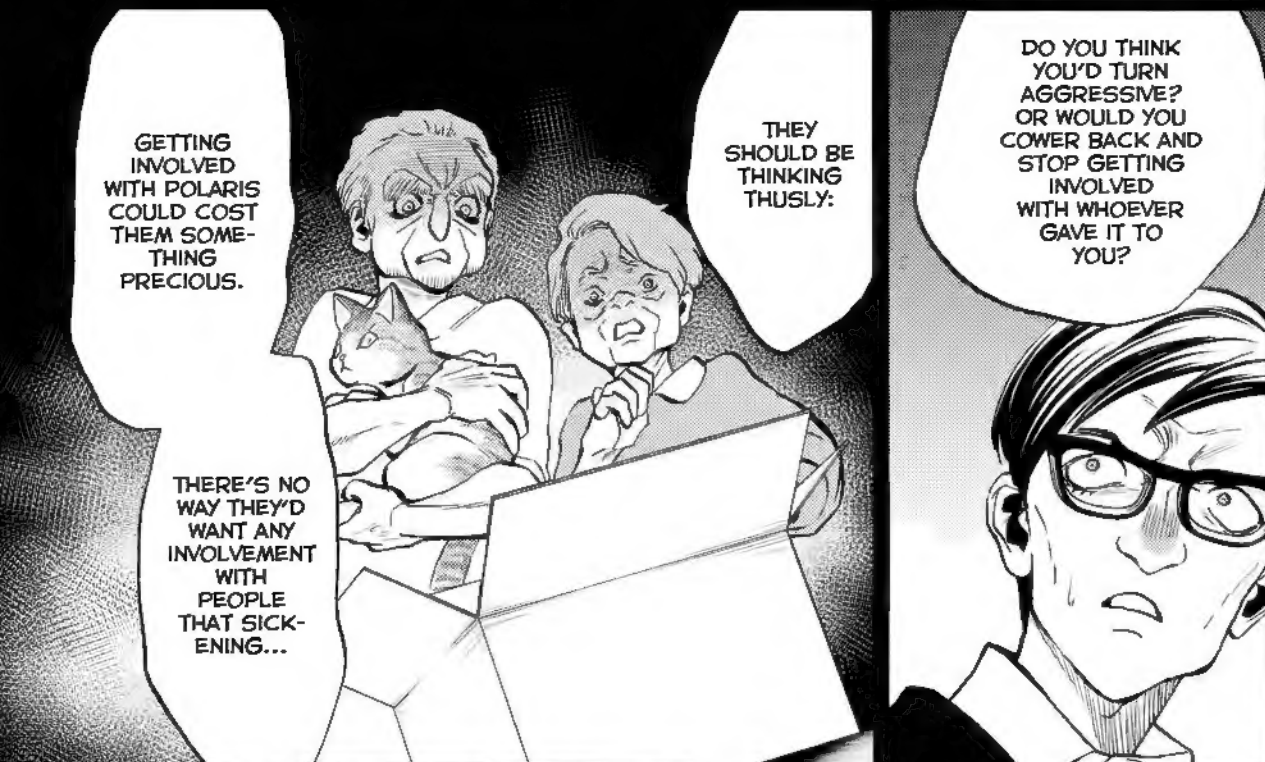


CANOPUS-SAN, HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF YOU RECEIVED SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

YOU THINK SO?

NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT... THIS WOULD JUST AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION EVEN FURTHER, NO?

TO THE FAMILY WHO STORMS OVER TO YELL AT US, DAY AND NIGHT?



GETTING INVOLVED WITH POLARIS COULD COST THEM SOMETHING PRECIOUS.

THERE'S NO WAY THEY'D WANT ANY INVOLVEMENT WITH PEOPLE THAT SICKENING...

THEY SHOULD BE THINKING THUSLY:

DO YOU THINK YOU'D TURN AGGRESSIVE? OR WOULD YOU COWER BACK AND STOP GETTING INVOLVED WITH WHOEVER GAVE IT TO YOU?



IT'S NOT AS THOUGH I ENJOY THIS...

YOU'VE TOLD ME ALL SORTS OF STORIES ABOUT YOUR BELOVED DOG...

SIRIUS-SAN... YOU WERE NEVER ONE TO DIS-LIKE ANIMALS.

AND AS
THE RING OF
STARS, IT IS
OUR ROLE TO
TREAD EVEN
A PATH LIKE
THIS IN
ORDER TO
PROTECT
EVERYONE!

THIS IS
OUR
JUSTICE!

EVEN IF
THEY THINK
WE'RE A
DISGUSTING
CULT,
THEY'LL
FEEL THE
NEED TO
LEAVE US
ALONE, WILL
THEY NOT?

THIS
IS NO
MISTAKE.

BUT IT
MUST BE
DONE.

EVEN
THOUGH
WE'VE
DONE
NOTHING
WRONG!
EVEN
THOUGH
WE NEED
TO BE
PROTECTED!

THE
PEOPLE
GATHERED
HERE
ARE ALL
SOCALLY
VUL-
NERABLE!

IS IT
A SIN
TO GIVE
OUR
HEARTS
SOME
REST?!

EVERYONE IS
TERRIFIED
WHENEVER
SOMEONE
COMES
STORMING
IN YELLING
HYSTERICALLY.

YOU'VE SEEN
THAT LOOK OF
TERROR ON OUR
CHILDREN'S
FACES SO
MANY TIMES!
AS THOSE
PEOPLE'S LOUD
VOICES CAUSE
THEM TO
FREEZE UP IN
FLASHBACKS!

WE ARE
DOING NOTHING
WRONG HERE!
IF ANYONE IS IN
THE WRONG,
IT'S THEM!

Higurashi no Naku Koro ni Rei: Irotoutoshi-hen

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